

**AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT**

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

A system and method for securing a welding electrode to a welding torch. The system ~~comprises~~ includes a collet body having a first portion that compresses an end of a collet against a welding electrode as the collet is urged against the first portion. The collet body also ~~comprises~~ includes an inner cylindrical portion that receives the compressed end of the collet and prevents the collet from expanding, thereby maintaining the collet compressed against the welding electrode. The method ~~comprises~~ includes urging the collet against the first portion of the collet body to compress the end portion of the collet against the welding electrode. The method also ~~comprises~~ includes urging the collet further into the collet body to dispose the end portion of the collet into the inner cylindrical portion of the collet body to prevent the end portion of the collet from expanding.